that the present species cannot be safely referred to the genus *Fridericia*, which is so distinctly characterised by the peculiar paired character of its setæ. There remains only *Henlea* and *Bryodrilus*, from which, however, the species described in the present paper differs in several points. With genera described more recently than those included in Michaelsen's comprehensive work just quoted, e. g. *Hydrenchytræus*\*, I cannot identify this semiparasitic Enchytræid from India.

It is true that four species, viz., Marionina glandulosa, Enchytræus minimus, E. parvulus  $\dagger$ , and E. turicensis, possess, as does the species dealt with here, two setæ in each lateral, and three in each ventral, bundle; but I do not regard those European species as identical with the present Indian form.

In the meantime I place the species in the genus *Henlea*, where the characteristic glandular pouches of the gut are occasionally absent (e. g. *Henlea dicksoni*), in default of living material and a more exhaustive examination. I propose to name it after Mr. Lefroy, who first directed attention to the species.

 On new and rare British Mites of the Family Oribatidæ. By CECIL WARBURTON, M.A., F.Z.S., and NIGEL D. F. PEARCE, M.A.

[Received November 21, 1905.]

# (Plates XIX. & XX. <sup>‡</sup>)

Since the publication of Mr. A. D. Michael's Monograph on British Oribatidæ in 1888, only a single new species, so far as we are aware, has been described from these islands. This was a *Lohmannia* taken in Ireland by Prof. Carpenter and described by Berlese in 'Redia,' vol. ii. fasc. i. (1904, Aug. 18), as *L. insignis*. Curiously enough this mite was in our hands while the Italian arachnologist was describing it, and narrowly escaped another specific name.

No doubt the workers in this particular group have been few, but it is a striking testimony to the thoroughness of Mr. Michael's work that so long an interval should have elapsed without substantial addition to the British list of Oribatidæ, for the study of which his labours have so admirably paved the way.

For two years we have searched pretty thoroughly the neighbourhood of Cambridge, and especially of Grantchester, and have examined moss from many other localities, and we have hitherto met with 82 of the species described in the Monograph, and the seven forms, new, we believe, to science, of which the diagnoses are given below.

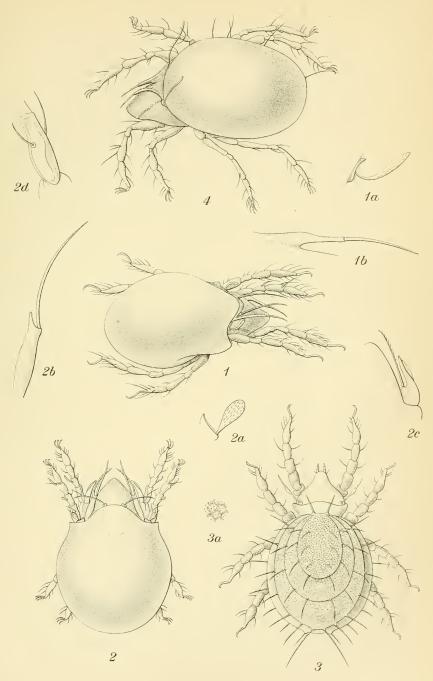
564

<sup>\*</sup> Bretcher, Rev. Zool. Suisse, ix. p. 208.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> This worm is described by Friend (Irish Nat. xi. 1902, p. 110), though no sufficiently to permit of any certainty.

<sup>‡</sup> For explanation of the Plates, see p. 569.

P.Z.S 1905, vol.II. Pi. XIX.

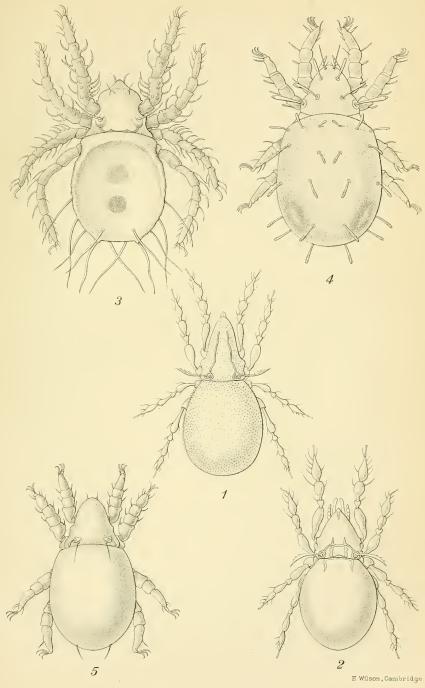


BRITISH ORIBATIDÆ.

E.Wilson,Cambridge

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BRITISH ORIBATIDÆ.

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### Fam. ORIBATIDÆ.

### Subfam. ORIBATINÆ.

#### Gen. Oribata Latreille.

ORIBATA FURCATA, sp. nov. (Plate X1X, fig. 1.)

Adult. Length 500  $\mu$ . Colour dark brown, nearly black. Surface polished. Lamellæ, blades on edge with very long cylindrical cusps, the whole extremity of the cusp being occupied by the base of the long lamellar hair. Translamella an inverted V. Interlamellar hairs present.

Pseudostigmatic organs long, sub-clavate, directed forwards and upwards.

Pteromorphæ small. Claws monodactyle. Genital and anal orifices moderately far apart, shaped like the keystone of an arch; the anal considerably the larger.

Nymph and larva unknown.

Two specimens found in moss from Austwick Bog, Yorkshire, in May 1904.

There is no danger of confusing this very distinct species with either of the other two known British monodactyle Oribatas, *O. fusigera* and *O. parmelliæ*. The first is very minute, while the second has hairs on the notogaster, and short clavate pseudostigmatic organs.

## ORIBATA OMISSA, sp. nov. (Plate XIX, fig. 2.)

Adult. Length 700  $\mu$ . Colour dark brown. Surface highly polished and shining. Body distinctly broadest in the middle. Lamella, blades on edge, with a long sharp-pointed cusp standing free, the lamellar hairs springing from the inner angle of the cusps. No translamella. Claws tridactyle. Not rare in moss, at Cambridge.

Nymph and larva unknown.

We think it likely that this species has hitherto been overlooked on account of its resemblance to the common and extremely variable species *O. lapidaria*, and in spite of the different facies, due chiefly to its barrel-shaped body and polished surface (destitute of a light spot), there seemed to be few clear distinctive characters. The absence of any trace of a translamella, and the sharp-pointed cusps, are, however, good characteristics. Though occurring in the same neighbourhood their habitat is different, *O. omissa* being exclusively found in moss, nor have we met with any intermediate forms.

### ORIBATA RUBENS C. L. Koch.

This very distinct species occurred in *Sphagnum* from heath-pools at Bournemouth in October 1905. It is about 500  $\mu$  in length, chestnut-coloured, and with very long legs. It is now for the first time recorded as British.